INTELL. LIBRARY

E

LYMINGTON,
MAY, 1926.

Lymington Rural District
Medical Officer of Health.
F. H. MATURIN, B.A., M.B., B.C. CANTAB,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., ENGLAND.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the Annual Report for the year 1925 of the Lymington Rural District which is 38,613 acres in extent, with an estimated population of 13,330 comprising the Districts of Boldre (East Boldre and Baddesley), Sway, Brockenhurst, Hordle, Milford, Milton, and Pennington.

Throughout the whole district there is an excellent gravel soil covered in its uncultivated part with heath and moorland and fairly well wooded and watered, bounded on the South by the Solent and the Lymington Urban District, and on the North by the New Forest.

The inhabitants are either of residential class or engaged in agricultural pursuits, the neighbourhood being entirely free from any factories. The District generally is becoming very popular as a holiday centre where the pleasures both of the seaside and open spaces of the New Forest can be enjoyed.

Birth Rate.

The births in the year numbered 224, as against 208 in the previous year, 123 boys and 101 girls. Taking the estimated population for the area at 13,330, this gives a birth rate of 16.8 per thousand, as against 15.89 for 1924.

Death Rate.

The total number of deaths was 157 as against 174 the previous year. The death rate being 11.77 as against 13.39 in 1924 and 9.7 in 1923.

The chief causes of death were:

Arterio-Scerosis	...	9
Malignant Disease	...	18
Heart Disease	...	22
Nephritis (all forms)	...	5
Cerebal Hæmorrhage	...	14
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	9
Pneumonia	...	5
Congenitial Debility and Premature Births		5
Influenza ...	...	5
Whooping Cough	..	Nil

There were 8 deaths of infants under one year, giving an infant mortality of 35.7 per thousand, as against 51.7 per thousand for 1924.

There were again no deaths of infants under two years from Diarrhœa or Gastro-Enteritis.

Infectious Diseases.

There were sixteen cases notified during the year—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	7
Chicken Pox	...	...	72
Enteric Fever	...	...	1
Para Typhoid	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	5

Tuberculosis 26 as against 16 in 1924. 19 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and 7 of Tubercle of other parts.

Housing Accommodation.

During the year, 169 new Houses were erected in the District, of which 94 were subsidy Cottages, but still more are needed.

Sixty-six Dwelling-houses were inspected for housing defects, and improvements carried out following the recommendation of the Sanitary Inspector.

Water Supply.

Brockenhurst is supplied by the Southampton Corporation Water Works; New Milton, Milford, Hordle, and Pennington by the West Hants Company. The quality of the water is good in each case and every endeavour is made to make the owners connect up their houses. Sway, Boldre, and East Boldre have no water supply from any Company, obtaining their water from wells which is generally speaking of good quality.

Drainage and Sewerage.

New Milton has a drainage system connected with filter beds and supplies a good part of the district. The scheme for the drainage of Ashley has been completed, and private connection allowed. Up to the end of 1925 a total of 676 houses and premises have been connected in the area.

Milford is partly served by a sewer which was taken over from the Newlands Estate but as previously reported more of the village should be drained. A sewer extension from Milford Corner to the old Vicarage was begun in

November but was not completed by the end of the year. This will improve the drainage for that part of the Parish. The condition of the stream is better this year but it requires constant supervision. Twenty-two premises were connected to the sewer in 1925.

Pennington. As previously reported the cesspools from the houses in Ridgeway Lane and other parts are a constant source of trouble and some form of drainage scheme should be adopted. The joint scheme for the drainage of Milford and Pennington is still in abeyance owing to cost of labour and material.

Boldre, East Boldre, Sway, and Hordle have no drainage system and being rural in character do not require anything beyond their present cesspools and earth closets.

Brockenhurst. The drainage scheme is in working order and 297 houses have been connected. I am endeavouring to get more connections made. There were 49 new connections in 1925.

The pollution of the various ditches is much relieved by the new sewerage system and the general health of the parish has improved.

Scavenging.

In the more Urban parts of the District the disposal of house refuge has had the consideration of the Council who have granted the necessary powers for collection tipping places, etc.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Continual inspections of the district have been made throughout the year. The number of Cottage Inspections made was 139. Inspections as result of written complaints 56. Inspector's visits for Drains, Sewers, etc. 250. Inspection of Council's Sewerage Works 131. Inspector's visits to Isolation Hospital with reference to Drains, Fumigation of Houses and conveyance of patients to the Hospital 15. Total Inspections of all visits during year 650.

Nuisances complained of were abated without having to serve any statutory notice.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

All those registered have been duly visited and their general condition is satisfactory. The necessity for registration has been made known and several new names have now been registered. Repairs recommended have been carried out. The Milk supply in the District is abundant and a large quantity is exported into other areas.

Slaughter Houses.

These have been visited and will come under more supervision having to be licenced or registered under the new Byelaws and general regulations as the case may be.

Except for the epidemics amongst the children, the health of the District was good.

Resumé of last five years.

During the last five years the district has maintained its high state of good health.

The Housing Acts of 1919 and 1923 have been vigorously applied with the result that over 350 houses have secured State assistance.

No new water supply has been laid down but extensions of the existing ones have been numerous.

Brockenhurst is the new area to have a drainage scheme and extensions have been made at New Milton and Milford-on-Sea.

Sections 39 and 42 of Act of 1875 have been adopted and arrangements for disposal of refuge made in all Parishes.

Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes are provided. Each parish has a Certified Midwife working under local auspices.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are worked by the County.

The District has its own excellent Isolation Hospital.

Yours faithfully,

F. H MATURIN.

King, Printer, Lymington.